

In the Specification:

On page 4, lines 9 and 10, please replace the existing paragraph with the following paragraph:

Fig. 3 is a block diagram illustrating an apparatus for communicating data packets according to classes of service in accordance with an embodiment of the present invention.

On page 5, line 20, through page 6, line 2, please replace the existing paragraph with the following paragraph:

One mechanism by which an upstream node (which may be the packet's source node, or which may be an upstream router) can communicate to its downstream router the class of service which a particular packet should receive is by use of the "differentiated services codepoint" (DSCP) field in the Internet protocol version 4 (IPv4) or Internet protocol version 6 (IPv6) packet header. The description of this field is elaborated in RFC2474. Essentially, the 6-bit DSCP is used to select a "per-hop behavior" (PHB), where a per-hop behavior is "a description of the externally observable forwarding treatment applied at a differentiated-services ~~compliant~~ compliant node to a ...collection of packets with the same codepoint crossing a link in a particular direction." The PHB selected for a packet is descriptive of the CoS and drop precedence received by that packet.